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**U.S. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
POLLUTION REPORT**

EPA Region 5 Records Ctr.



272620

I. HEADING

Date: November 21, 1995

Subject: American Plating Chicago, Cook County, Illinois.

From: Sam Borries, Region 5 U.S. EPA On-Scene Coordinator

To: Terri Johnson, OSWER (703) 603-9116
Rick Karl, EERB (312) 353-9176
H. Valetkevitch, OPA (312) 353-1155
Don Bruce, EERB (312) 353-9176
Bill Messenger, EERB (312) 353-9176
Rich Clarizio, ORC (312) 886-0747
Joe Schuessler, CDOE (312) 744-6451
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Illinois
U.S. Coast Guard District 9 (216) 522-2738
Tom Crause, IEPA (217) 782-3258

POLREP # 5**II. BACKGROUND**

Site No: VF	Delivery Order No: 5001-05-379
CERCLIS No: N/A	ERMS No: N/A
Response Authority: CERCLA	NPL Status: Non-NPL
State Notification: IEPA	Start Date: 10/16/95
Demobilization Date: N/A	Completion Date: N/A
Status of Action Memorandum: Approved on September 26, 1995.	

III. SITE DESCRIPTION**A. Incident Category:** CERCLA

B. Site Location: 1820 West Lake Street
Chicago, Cook County, Illinois

1. **Site description:** The American Plating site is an inactive and abandoned electroplating facility located at 1820 West Lake Street in Chicago, Cook County, Illinois. The site is situated in a mixed residential and commercial surrounding. The Henry Horner housing projects are located to the south across Lake Street. The site comprises of 6 large rooms and occupies approximately 0.5 acres. The coordinates for the site are latitude 41°53'8" North and longitude 87°40'18" West. The building is severely deteriorated and has a weak structural integrity with collapsed roofs at several locations. Entrance doors to the site are missing at several locations and free access to the site exists. The site area is frequented by vagrants and a lot of

"drug" paraphernalia is visible throughout the building.

2. **Description of threat:** Ecology & Environment, Inc. (E & E), the U.S. EPA Technical Assistance Team (TAT) contractor, conducted a site assessment in August 1995 and found chromic acid (Ph 1.58 units) in 1 vat, a 0.48 Ph acid in a drum labelled "sulfuric acid", a spilled drum containing 54,000 mg/kg chromium (TCLP chromium 608 mg/L), and a pit containing TCLP lead concentration of 5.2 mg/L. The open vats with hazardous contaminants, and several drums and pits with hazardous contaminants posed a threat to human health and the environment.

There have been at least 2 fires inside the building. The most recent fire occurred over the week of October 14, 1995. There were also two stolen/stripped vehicles inside the building since the site walk through October 3, 1995.

- C. **Preliminary Assessment/Site Inspection Results** The American Plating site has not been previously evaluated under the Preliminary Assessment/Site Inspection investigative phases.

The site was brought to U.S. EPA's attention by the Chicago Department of Environment (CDOE), who investigated the site and found hazardous contaminants.

IV. **RESPONSE INFORMATION**

A. **Situation**

1. **Current situation:** Weather conditions: High temperatures ranged from high 20s to low 50s. Periods of rain and snow flurries most of the week. Rain/snow continues to hamper work as crew deals with slippery surfaces and muddy ground. Working hour site security necessary due to high crime area where site is located.
2. **Removal activities to date:** U.S. EPA initiated a removal action on October 16, 1995 by mobilizing the Emergency Response Cleanup Services (ERCS) contractor Smith Environmental and the TAT contractor E & E. Due to past vandalism and trespass at the site and the high crime neighborhood, armed security guards were hired to provide site security. The site building is screened daily with the help of the security guards. A Bobcat unloader, a track mini-excavator, a storage trailer, and a mobile office trailer were mobilized to site.

During the week, completed removal of contaminated soil from Pit #2 and stockpiled in Room #5. Completed removal of contaminated plaster and brick removal from the East

Wall in Room #4. Loaded approximately 150 cubic yards (10 truckloads) of hazardous waste solids from Room #5 stockpile into roll-off boxes for off-site disposal. TAT collected profile samples from the caustic liquid and caustic solids wastestreams. Received analytical data for Vat #1 as non hazardous and pumped out liquids from Vat #1 to wash floors. Removed contaminated debris out of Vat #5 and began neutralization of residual liquids in Vat #5. Loaded 4,100 gallons of corrosive liquids (chromic acid) out of Vat #5 into a tanker truck for off-site treatment and disposal. TAT collected composite samples from East Wall/Room #4, Walls and Floors/Room #3, and North and South sections of Pit #2/Room #5. Began dismantling wood vat platforms and metal Vats #2 and #3. Shipped out 6 empty decontaminated vats. Conducted general site cleanup. Site visits by CDOE and U.S. EPA management to assess site progress. TAT performed air monitoring inside vats in Room #2 with no levels above background recorded on oxygen/explosimeter. TAT performed hazcat testing of sludge samples from Room #3 and Pit #1 for cyanide, chromium, and pH.

3. **Enforcement:** 104(e) Notification Letters have been sent to all of the known site Potentially Responsible Parties (PRPs).

B. Planned Removal Actions

Sample all site waste streams and arrange for waste disposal. Clear and sweep all areas. Remove and consolidate all waste materials in drums, vats, pits, walls, and floors. Decontaminate necessary portions of the building.

C. Next Steps

Remove debris out of vats, pits, and off the floor. Clean out all vats and dispose of liquid/sludge and hazardous pit soils. Continue to clear the debris in Room #3 to gain access to buried vats. Sample vats in Room #3 and dispose appropriately. Decontaminate appropriate portions of the site.

D. Key Issues

Decontamination of the building:
Various alternatives are being considered for proper decontamination, however few will possibly remain within budget constraints while ensuring worker safety. Most of the alternatives will limit or disallow complete decontamination.

V. COSTS

Extramural Costs:

Total Cleanup Contractor (e.g. ERCS) Costs	\$ 138,863.59
IAGs	\$ 0.00
Cooperative Agreements/Letter Contracts	\$ 0.00
TAT/START	\$ 6,585.00
CLP	\$ 0.00
REAC	\$ 0.00
TOTAL, EXTRAMURAL COSTS	\$ 145,448.59

Intramural Costs:

Direct Costs (Region, HQ, ERT)	\$ 6,225.00
Intramural Indirect Costs	\$ 10,997.50
TOTAL, INTRAMURAL COSTS	\$ 17,222.50

TOTAL SITE COST	\$ 162,671.09
Project Ceiling	\$ 323,000.00
Project Funds Remaining (percentage)	50%

The above accounting of expenditures is an estimate based on figures known to the OSC at the time this report was written. The OSC does not necessarily receive specific figures on final payments made to any contractor. Other financial data, which the OSC must rely upon, may not be entirely up to date. The cost accounting provided in this report does not necessarily represent an exact monetary figure which the government may include in any claim for cost recovery.

VI. DISPOSITION OF WASTES

<u>Waste</u>	<u>Stream</u>	<u>Medium</u>	<u>Quantity</u>	<u>Containment</u>	<u>Treatment</u>	<u>Disposal</u>
Non-haz debris	Solid	80 cu.yds.	Roll-off box	Hegewisch	Landfill	Landfill
Haz waste solid	Solid	150 cu.yds.	Roll-off box	City Envir.	Landfill	Landfill
Waste corr. liq.	Liquid	4,100 gals.	Tanker	Dynecol, Inc.	Treatment	